

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a protein with the activity of a constitutive triple response (CTR) protein, said nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

22. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid that specifically hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to the complement of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a protein with the activity of a constitutive triple response (CTR) protein.

23. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

24. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a protein with the activity of a constitutive triple response (CTR) protein, said nucleic acid comprising nucleotides [[A]]1444-3286 of SEQ ID NO: 1, ~~wherein A is any one of nucleotides 1440-1444.~~

25. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid that specifically hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to the complement of nucleotides [[A]]1444-3286 of SEQ ID NO: 1, ~~wherein A is any one of nucleotides 1440-1444~~, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a protein with the activity of a constitutive triple response (CTR) protein.

26. (Currently amended) An isolated vector comprising the nucleic acid of any one of claims 21, 22, 23, 24 or 25.

27. (Previously presented) The isolated vector of claim 26 wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.

28. (Currently amended) An isolated host cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid of any one of claims 21, 22, 23, 24 or 25.

29. (Previously presented) An isolated host cell comprising the vector of claim 26.

30. (Previously presented) A transgenic cell comprising the vector of claim 26.

31. (Currently amended) A transgenic cell comprising the nucleic acid of any one of claims 21, 22, 23, 24 or 25.

32. (Previously presented) A mature transgenic plant comprising the cell of claim 30.